File DC/R

879

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

TELEPHONE

DATE: August 3, 1954
7:45 p.m.

SUBJECT: Guatemalan Situation

PARTICIPANTS: American Ambassador John E. Peurifoy - Guatemala City, Guatemala
Assistant Secretary Henry F. Holland

COPIES TO:
U - General Smith
ARA - Mr. Woodward
MID - Mr. Burrows, Mr. Neal
MID - Mr. Leddy, Mr. Fisher
CIA - Mr. Frank G. Wisner

714.00/8-354

Mr. Holland telephoned Amb. Peurifoy to inquire about the situation there because he said he was concerned about it.

Amb. Peurifoy said there are 11 aircraft now overhead. The planes had moved out, with the P-51's going to San José, Guatemala, and the others went to a nearby airport. They are all supporting Castillo Armas. He said the group out there now are to make surrender. If they don't surrender the rest of the Regular Army, the Regular Air Force, the Presidential Guard, as well as the Guardia Civil, will join in attacking the military base. A group is at the airport now representing Castillo Armas, demanding surrender of troops. He said the planes will bomb; have not bombed yet, have been flying over there. So presumably negotiations are going on.

Amb. Peurifoy said there have been very large popular demonstrations for Castillo Armas today. He said that he thinks he can say honestly for the first time that Castillo Armas has popular support. He thinks the matter will be resolved tonight; it looks very good. In reply to Mr. Holland's question he said he estimated that about 800 troops under Major Sosa were holed up there. He said that the elements that would attack are substantial. He said the Air Force is the deciding factor and is on Castillo Armas' side. The planes that went to San José had returned and so had P-57 that Castillo Armas brought with him. Amb. Peurifoy said that he was beginning to be awfully worried, but now feels a lot better. Mr. Holland asked Amb. Peurifoy to telephone if the matter came to a conclusion, no matter what time it was, also to call if there was anything to report.

CST

7/1/82 NARA, Date

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Mr. Holland said that a man came to call on him today, a Guatemalan who has been in the United States (Cordoba Cerna). Amb. Peurifoy said he knew who he meant and that he knew the man. Mr. Holland said he wanted to be sure whether he could talk to him without reserve. Amb. Peurifoy said that he thought he could. Mr. Holland said the man had some hesitancy of his influence in the south because he said that he had warned against some events that are now occurring. Amb. Peurifoy said that the thing to be impressed on them is that from the beginning we have insisted on no bloodshed and that we still do even though things move more slowly than they would like them to.

ARA:JKarydakis